

WAR WITHIN :
DARK AGES

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#



DW
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Furman
Wildman

TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES



CYBERTRON, ORBITAL
TORUS STATE: PROTIHEX...

BUGLY,
MINDWIPE--

--YOU ARE HEREBY
HELD ACCOUNTABLE
FOR CRIMES AGAINST
THIS PLANET!

VAARK!

THE DARK AGES

Writer	SIMON FURMAN
Pencils	ANDREW WILDMAN
Inks	ERIK SANDER
Additional Inks	ROB ARMSTRONG
Colors	ALAN WANG
Letters	BEN LEE

WHERE IS
THE OTHER ONE?
BLUDGEON?

IF THERE
IS, AMONG YOU, AN INTELLECT
WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION,
I SUSPECT IT IS HIS.

OH, I'M
RIGHT HERE,
SHOCKWAVE...

...ABOUT THREE
COUNTER-MOVES AHEAD
OF YOUR CLUMSY, IL-
CONCEIVED ATTACK.

BUT HEY,
THANKS FOR THE
FAINT PRAISE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW
YOU SURVIVED OUR LAST
ENCOUNTER, LET ALONE
TRACKED US HERE...

...BUT YOU
SHOULD NEVER HAVE
COME ALONE!

UHH...
ALONE?

THAT
WOULD BE
ILLOGICAL.

"CYBERTRON BURNS,
YOUR CREATIONS THRASH
BLINDLY AND WILDLY..."

BELOW:

...IN A CHURNING
CAULDRON OF
CONFLICT.

THIS IS MY
MASTER'S *DESIGN*, ETCHED
BY ME ON YOUR WORLDSKIN.
A CHAOTIC STIGMATA...

THE WELL OF
ALL SPARKS.

...TO MARK
HIS *SECOND*
COMING!

DID YOU BELIEVE US
GONE *FOREVER*, THAT THE
FRINGES OF INFINITY WERE *FAR*
ENOUGH, ETERNITY *LONG*
ENOUGH? NO...

...YOU
KNEW. AND SO
YOU *HID*.

"HERE.
WITHIN."

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE
LET THEM *DABBLE*, YOUR
CREATIONS. THEIR FUMBLING
ATTEMPTS TO PENETRATE
UNDERSPACE UNLOCKED
MY PRISON.

AND SOON...YOUR
INNER FIRE WILL LIGHT
THE CHAOS BRINGER'S
WAY BACK!

NO.

NO.

WHAT HE ON
ABOUT DOWN
THERE?

G-GRIMLOCK.
HOW LONG..?

NEVER MIND. LOOK,
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING
HERE IS *BEYOND* EVEN ME.
THEORETICAL, METAPHYSICAL
STUFF I'M...JUST *NOT* QUITE
READY TO ACCEPT.

BUT SOMETHING'S
STARTED. SOMETHING
ANCIENT AND *PRIMAL*.

AND WE'RE AT
*UNDERGROUND
ZERO*!

ABOVE...

DEFEND THE
ACCESS SHAFT. NO
ONE GETS THROUGH.

WHATEVER *THE
FALLEN* IS DOING,
HE'S
DOING IT *NOW*. ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER...

...THIS
WILL SOON BE
OVER.

AND WE
WILL HAVE OUR
REWARD!

HEY,
PROWL...

...YOU
GETTING
THIS?

AUTOBASE.

YEAH, SWOOP.
BUT WHAT *EXACTLY*
AM I GETTING...

...AND WHAT'S IT
GOT TO DO WITH
GRIMLOCK AND
JETFIRE?



MAYBE NOTHING,
BUT WHILE WE DREW A
BIG, FAT *BLANK* TRYING
TO TRACK OUR A.W.O.L
COMMANDER AND YOUR
SCIENCE OFFICER...



...HERE'S
SHOCKWAVE, LARGE
AS LIFE AND TWICE
AS UGLY.

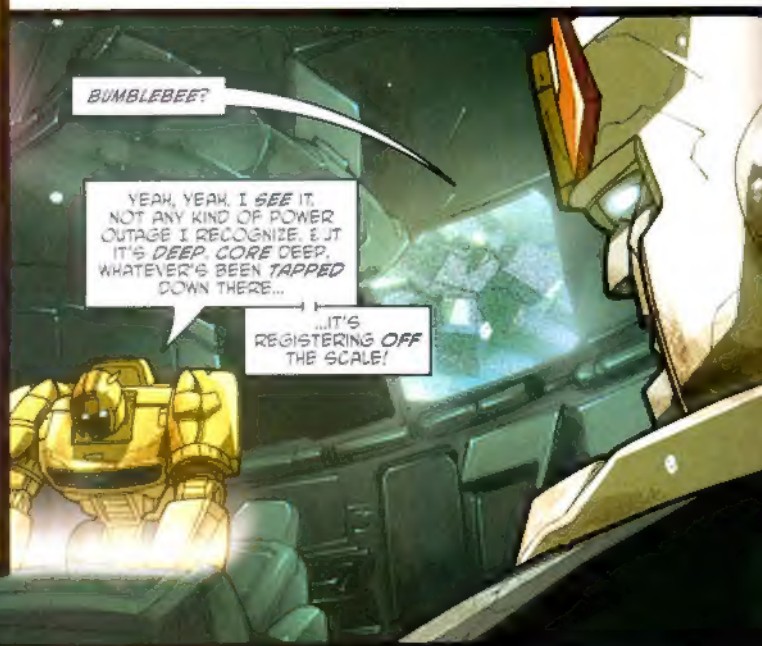
OKAAY, SHOCKWAVE
LINKS THE TWO, I *SEE* THAT.
JETFIRE WENT TO *MEET* HIM IN
SECRET, GRIMLOCK WENT TO
EXECUTE THEM BOTH.

BUT WHERE ARE *THEY*?
AND WHY'S SHOCKWAVE
ATTACKING NOWHERE-IN-
PARTICULAR, ALTIHIX?



AH, WELL,
THAT'S JUST IT. THIS
BIT OF 'NOTHING'...








AND SO
IT BEGINS, THE
UNBINDING...

THE ENERGY OF
FOUR *UNIQUE* SPARKS, EACH
LOADED WITH GENETIC POTENTIAL.
TOGETHER, THEY FORM THE
ANGLES OF DISSOLUTION.



THE
KEY...



...THAT WILL
UNLOCK THE SEAL
OF PRIMUS.



"THIS THING...IS
LEECHING POWER DIRECTLY
FROM OUR *SPARK CORES*."

"SO?"

SO...DON'T WASTE
MORE ENERGY TRYING
TO BREAK FREE YOU
CAN'T

INSTEAD, FOCUS
ON RE-ROUTING POWER FROM
LIFE SUPPORT TO YOUR INTERNAL
DAMPERS. MAYBE WE CAN BLOCK--
OR AT LEAST *STEM* THE
FLOW I THINK

YOU THINK TOO
MUCH! PRIMAL FORCES -
MY *TAILPIPE*! ONLY THING
ME BELIEVE IN.

IS--*NNNN*--
BRUTE FORCE!

RIGHT

LOOK, GRIMLOCK YOU
DON'T LIKE ME, FINE I
EVEN UNDERSTAND WE BOTH
STOOD THE *WRONG* SIDE OF
THE LINE, SAW THE LURE OR
LOGIC OF THE DECEPTION
EXPANSION IS IDEAL

I REMIND YOU
OF WHO AND *WHAT*
YOU ALMOST WERE

AND THEN THERE'S
THAT *INCIDENT*, WITH THE
CEREBRO SHELL AND, WELL
THE LESS SAID ABOUT
THAT THE BETTER

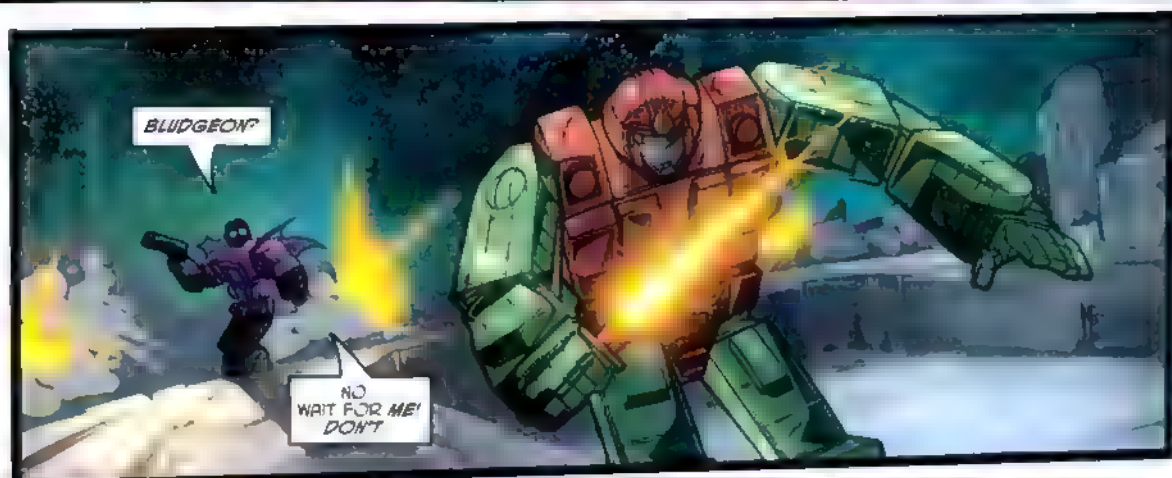
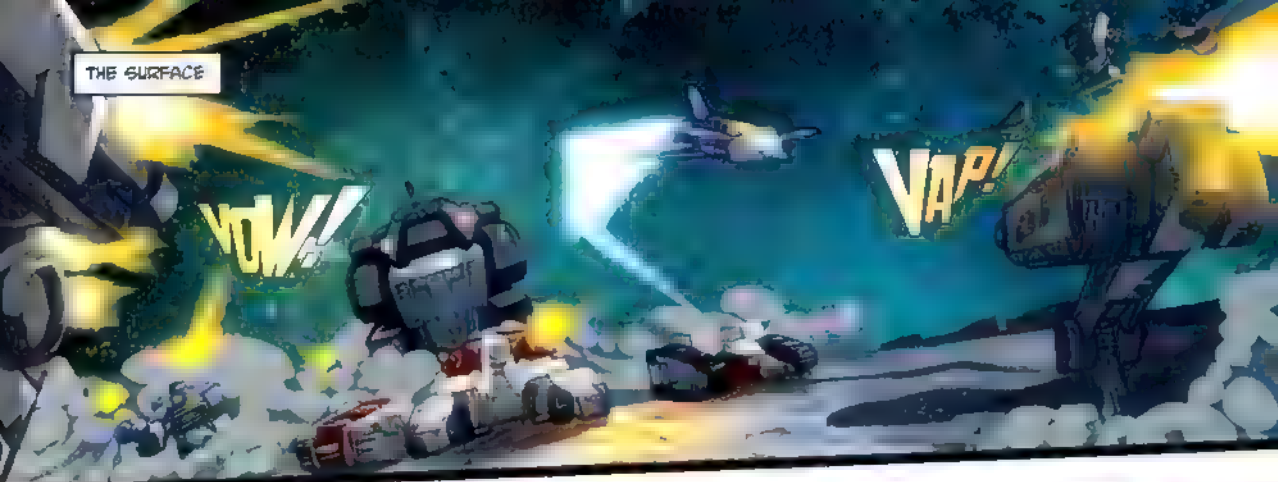
BUT HERE,
NOW, WE HAVE
TO--

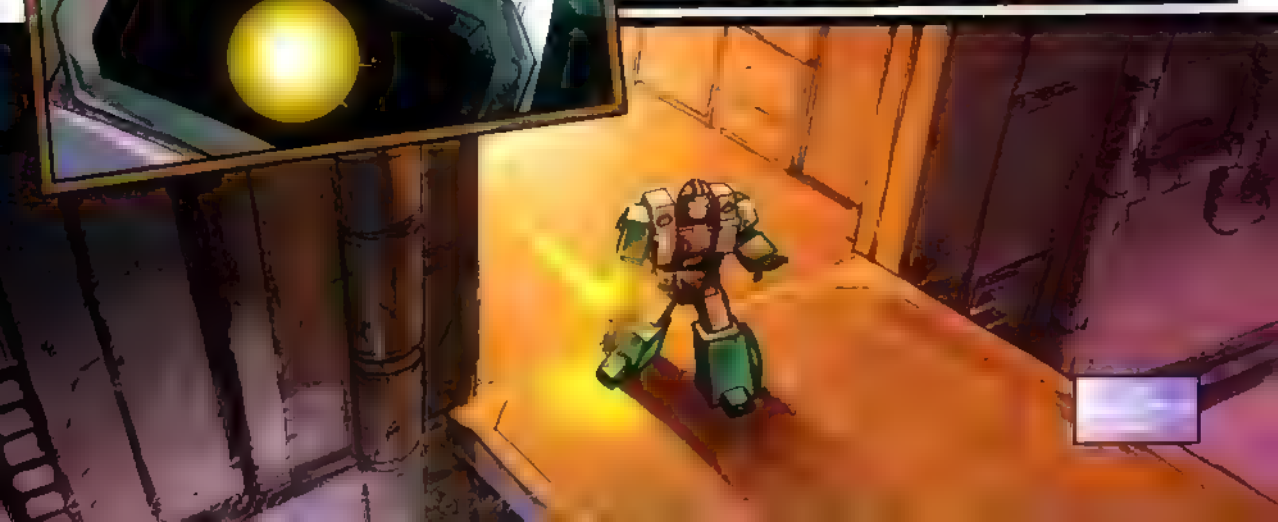
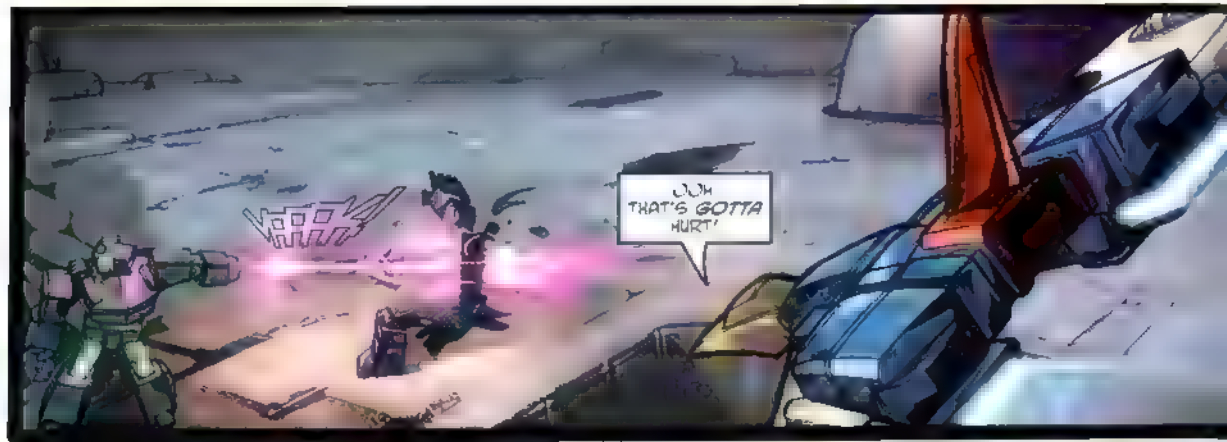
OH, SORRY
MISSED THAT

ON ACCOUNT OF
WHOLE *BREAKING
FREE* THING!

WOTK!

THE SURFACE







BELOW:

IT PAYBACK
TIME! BIG TIME!

BOOM!

POW!

GRIMLOCK!

LISTEN TO ME! THAT
THING, WE CAN'T STOP IT.
IT'S... TOO BIG! WHATEVER
HAPPEN NG DOING DOWN
THERE DEFIES BRAIN...
AND BRAIN



JUST THIS ONE
TIME TRUST ME WE
CAN'T FIGHT THIS...

... BUT I THINK I
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
CONTAIN IT!

GRIMLOCK

... PLEASE



OUTSIDE...

WE'RE
CLOSE

YES

BEYOND THE
BARRIER

THE MARKINGS
ARE NOT IN ANY
KNOWN DATABASE

IF I HAD TO
GUESS, I'D SAY, "DO
NOT DISTURB"

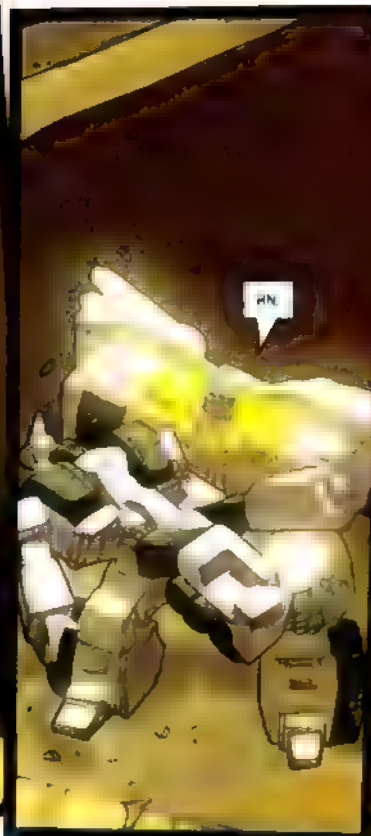
YH
TRYPTICON

BAW

TOO
LATE



HF



HN



FH



GRIMLOCK, YOU
HAVE TO GET THAT
DOOR OPEN I CAN'T
DO THIS OTHERWSE AS
SOON AS I'M ABLE, I'LL
SIGNAL AUTOBASE

AND
GRIMLOCK

DON'T
LOOK BACK




NEVER
DO

HN



NOW...



NOW WHAT? WHAT'S DOWN THERE? AND WHY DO I FEEL WITH SUCH UTTER CERTAINTY...

WE SHOULDN'T KNOW NOT YET

AU-AUTOBASE DO YOU READ ME? THIS IS JET-FIRE, PRIORITY CODE ALPHA-ALPHA-ONE

PROWL? JAZZ?



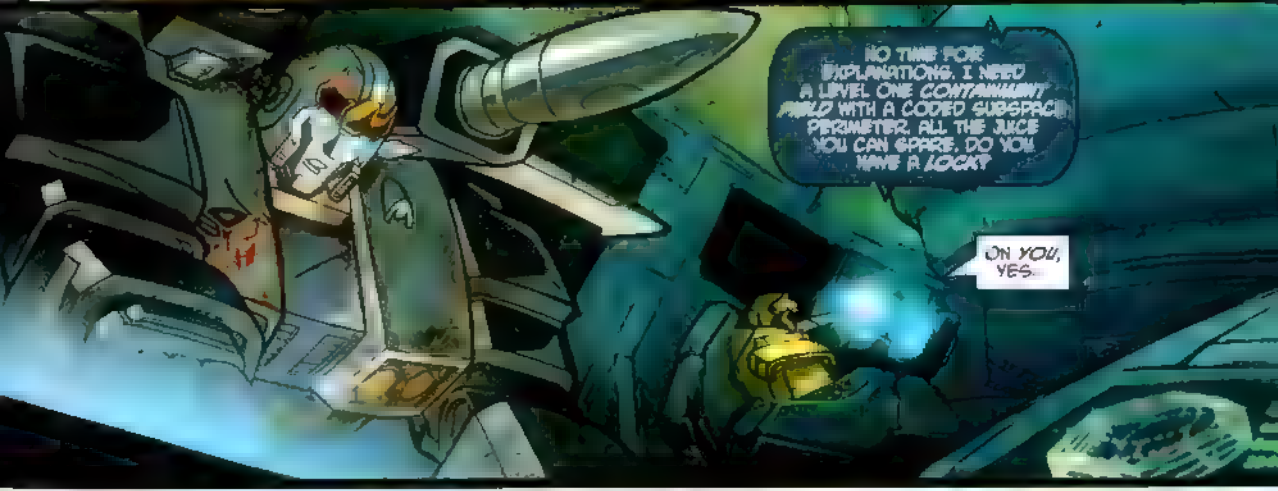
KROWK!



ANYONE?


"VNT" JET-FIRE WE NEED YOUR STATUS?

AS BAD AS IT GETS, PROWL...AS BAD AS IT GETS



NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS. I NEED A LEVEL ONE CONTAMINANT FIELD WITH A CODED SUBSPACE PERIMETER. ALL THE JUICE YOU CAN SPARE. DO YOU HAVE A LOCK?

ON YOU, YES.



...BUT THE IMMEDIATE AREA IS IN AN *EXTREME* STATE OF DIMENSIONAL *FLUX*. I ONLY HAVE A VERY LIMITED FIELD RANGE

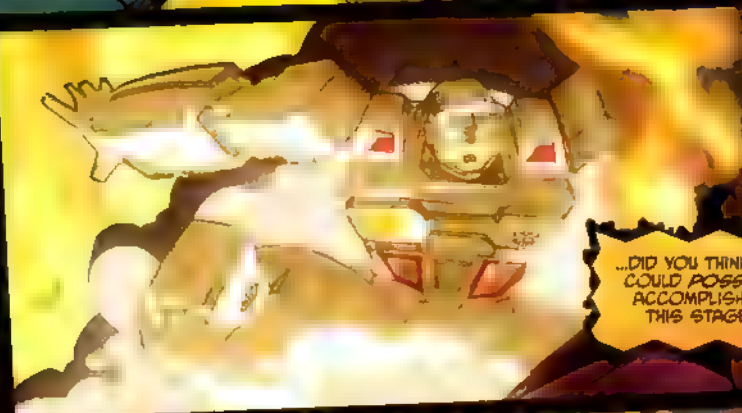
THAT'LL HAVE TO DO. JUST KEEP THIS CHANNEL OPEN...



AND ACTIVATE ON MY SIGNAL



AND WHAT, PRAY TELL...



...DID YOU THINK YOU COULD POSSIBLY ACCOMPLISH AT THIS STAGE?



THIS.

NOW, BUMBLEBEE...

NOW!



CONTAINMENT FIELD...

"...ESTABLISHED!"

WHAT?

WH AS I HAVE
DEMONSTRATED ONCE
ALREADY, THIS FRAGILE
BARRIER CAN NOT HOLD
ME FOR LONG.

IT'S
NOT MEANT
TO

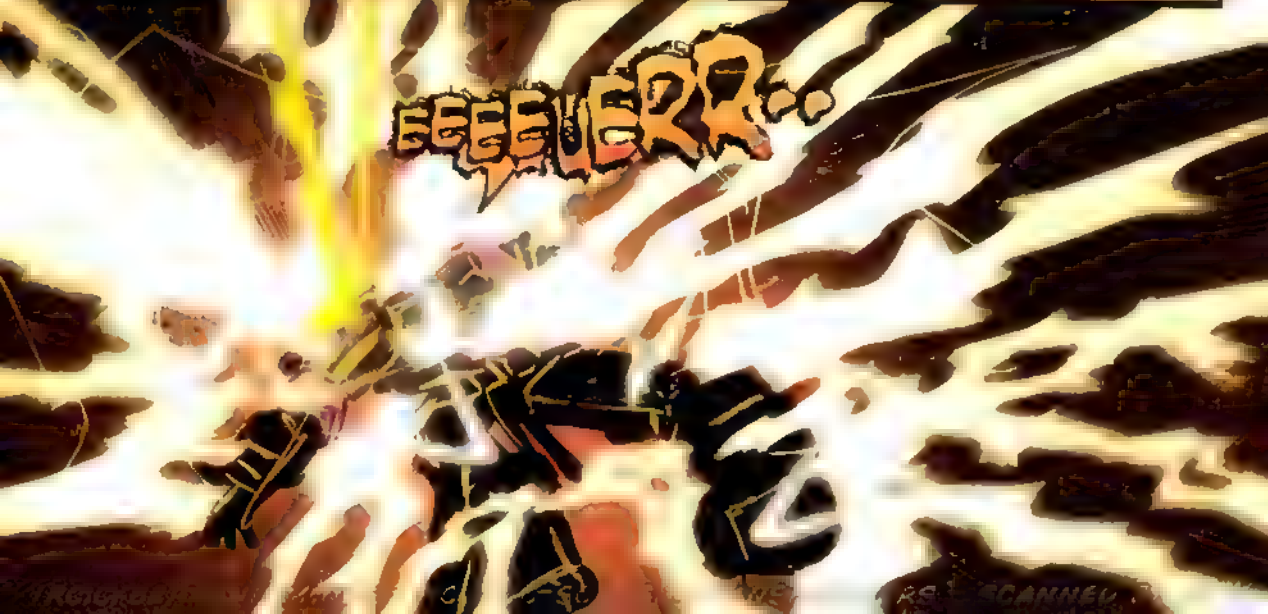
AH.

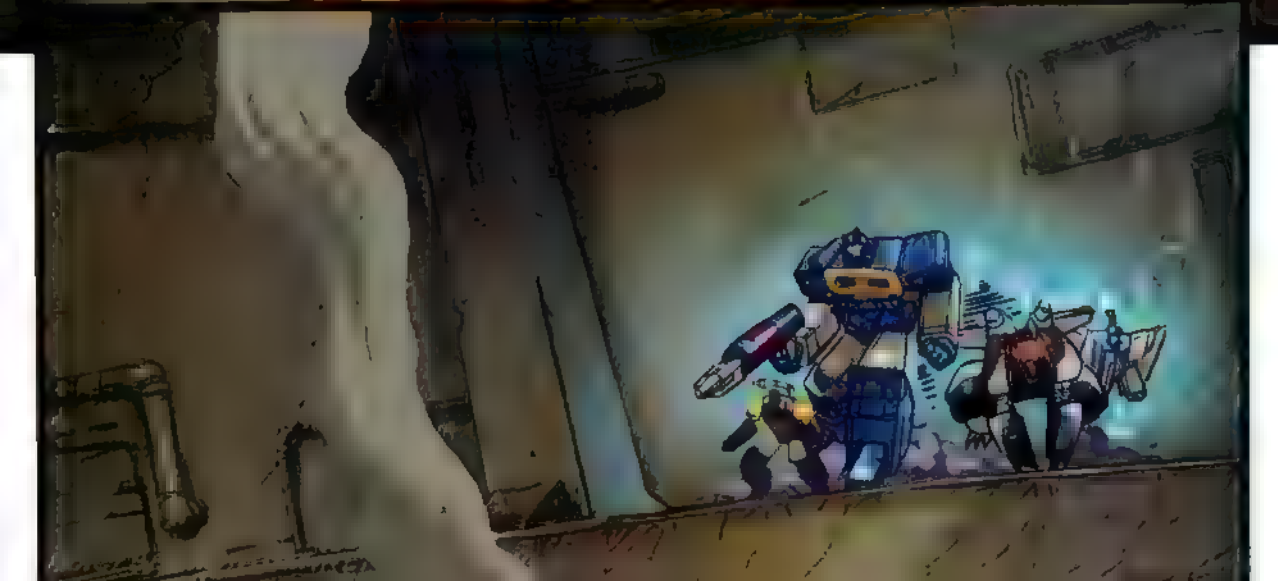
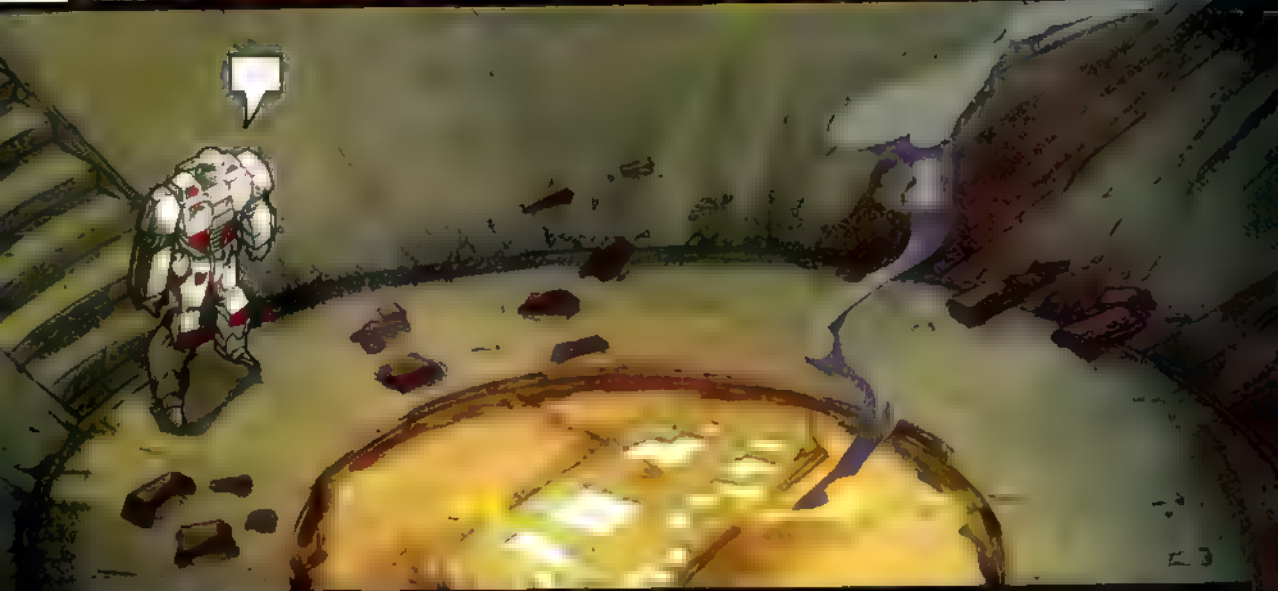
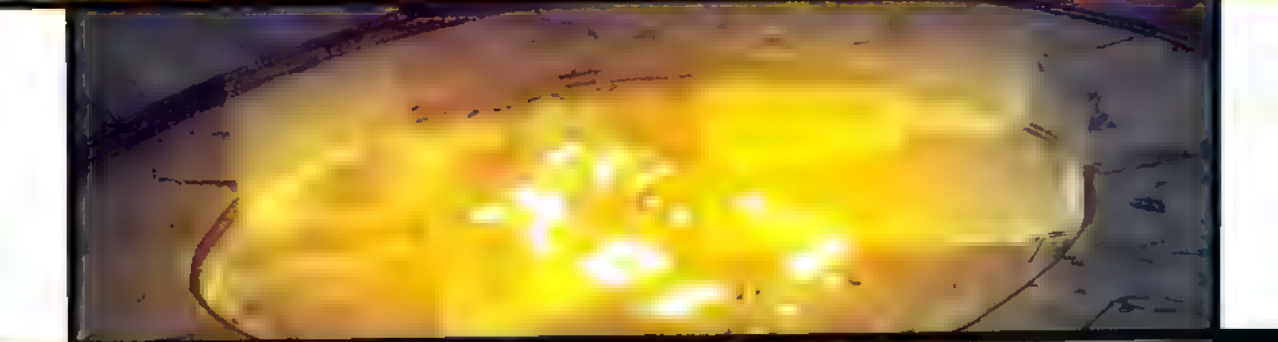
CLEVER
INSECT.

YOU SEEK TO
CONTAIN THE FORCE
I HAVE UNLEASHED YOU
SENSE MY CHAOTIC INTENT...
BUT DO NOT FULLY
UNDERSTAND.

HOW
COULD--

--YOUR!





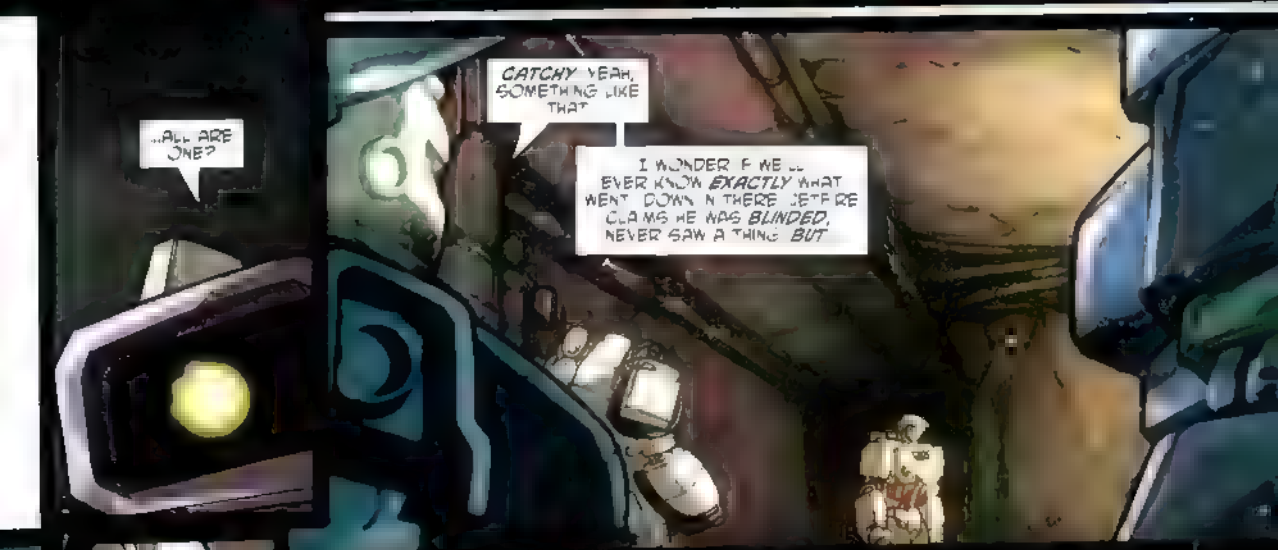


LATER...

THEN IT'S
AGREED

YES WE SEAL
THE CHAMBER. ERECT
CODED NON DUAL ENERGY
BARRIERS, ONE PER
FACTION

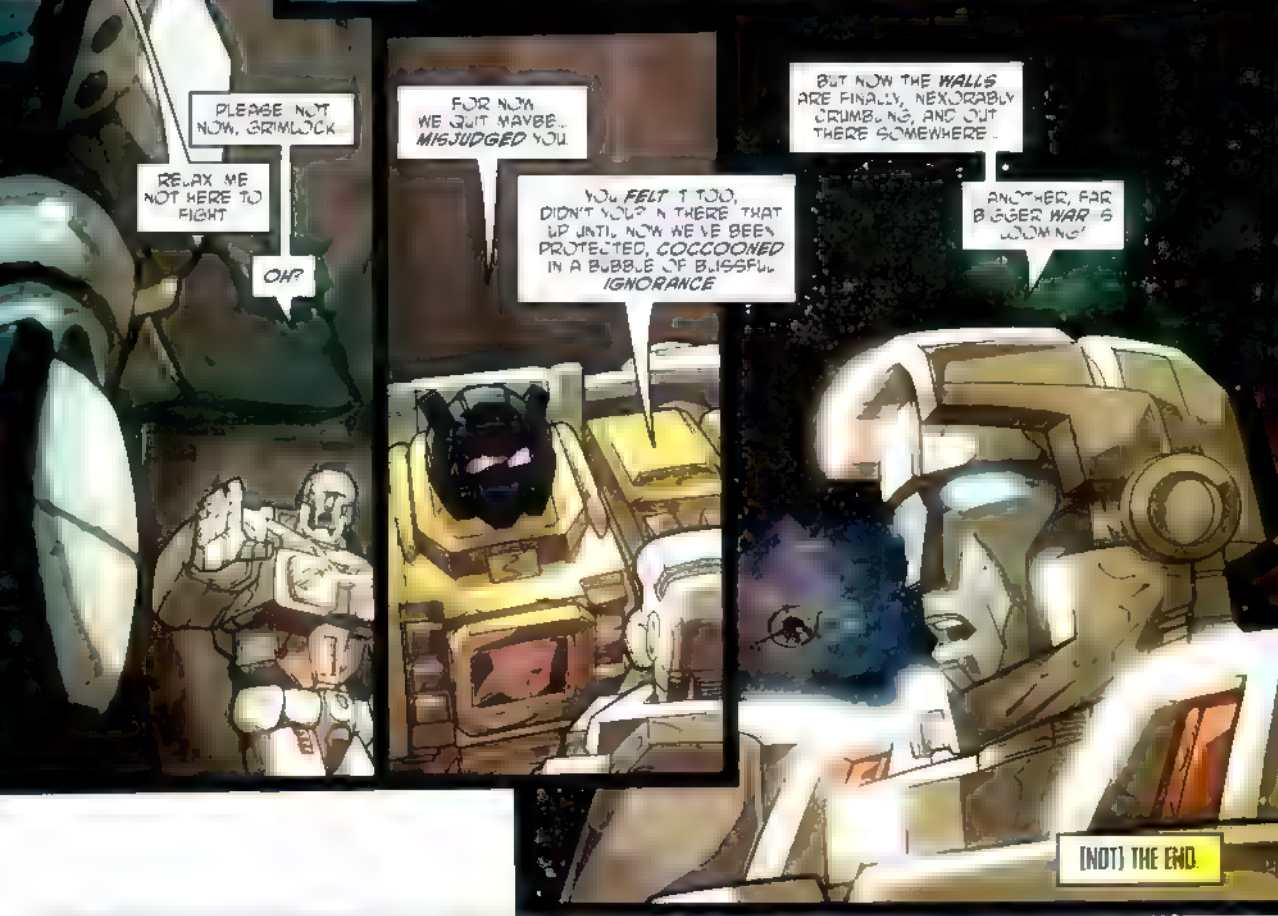
WHATEVER'S IN
THERE STAYS BURIED
UNTIL LATE



...ALL ARE
ONE?

CATCHY YEAH,
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT

I WONDER IF WE'LL
EVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT
WENT DOWN IN THERE. JET-FIRE
CLAIMS HE WAS BLINDED,
NEVER SAW A THING BUT



PLEASE NOT
NOW, GRIMLOCK

RELAX WE
NOT HERE TO
FIGHT

OH?

FOR NOW
WE QUIT MAYBE...
MISJUDGED YOU

YOU FELT IT TOO,
DIDN'T YOU? IN THERE THAT
UP UNTIL NOW WE'VE BEEN
PROTECTED, COCCOONED
IN A BUBBLE OF BLISSFUL
IGNORANCE

BUT NOW THE WALLS
ARE FINALLY, INEXORABLY
CRUMBLING, AND OUT
THERE SOMEWHERE...

ANOTHER, FAR
BIGGER WAR'S
LOOMING!

[NOT] THE END

DECLARATIONS OF WAR

Dear Dreamwave

I have two questions:

1. In War Within: The Dark Ages #2, Hotspot says to the other Protectobots, "...how long before the Predacons want Bruticus...?" However, in GI Vol 2, we see Starscream bringing along the Combaticons in protoform state (Transformer equivalent of a fetus, right?). This means that the Combaticons were reduced to protoform state after the events in War Within—is my statement correct?
2. In the last issue of GI Vol. 1, we see an Autobot ship on the seabed of the Arcutic Ocean...when will we find out what that ship's all about?

Anyhow, great work on all fronts of the TF universe!

Warm regards,

Hafiz



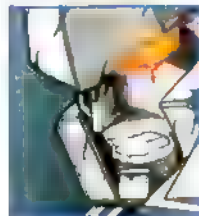
1. As correct as anything can possibly be coming from an ignorant fleshling. Perhaps that one-eyed weakling, Shockwave, found them too difficult to control in my absence from Cybertron.
2. ?

I love what you did with the Transformers series... would like to know if the War Within story is the same timeline before the Transformers came to Earth. Did they leave Cybertron the way they look in the War Within series, and then get reformatted to look like Earth vehicles, weapons, and aircraft? Will we be seeing Galvatron any time soon?

Mr. Melvin A. Victor

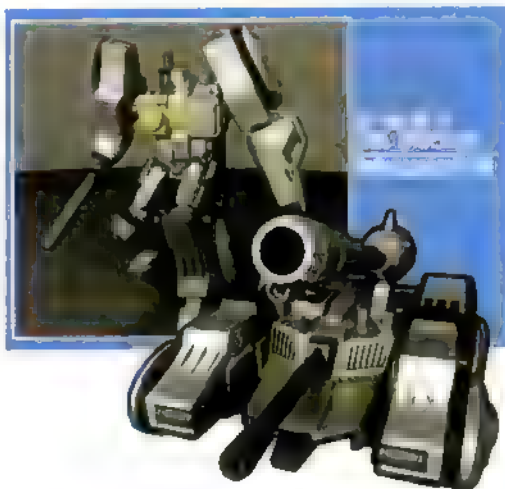
Do you flesh creatures understand anything? War Within is basically the pre-story for the GI tales...as for details of the Transformers' departure from Cybertron and early days on Earth, those tales will

soon be told by the putrid, fleshy duo of Mick and Patyk. Although they'd better learn from past mistakes and not mistreat me in their stories...Megatron does not enjoy being shot in the face and left to drift aimlessly through space.



Dear DW,

Thanks so much, and great job with all of the Transformers comics! I grew up collecting the Transformers toys, and also the G.I. Joe toys, so seeing this brings back such great memories for me. The books are real exciting, just wanted to commend the great artwork that DW seems to be completely dedicated to producing, and which is the most important aspect to me in my choosing to follow a storyline or series. Being a hardcore fan, however, I do have

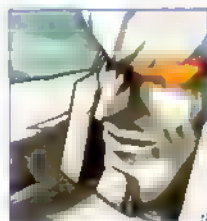


some gripes that I wanted to pass on to you:

In War Within: The Dark Ages, I think that there is a rawness to Dreamwave's art that I like, but at times he seems to lose that touch, and the art gets a bit sloppy at times. Issue #2, for example, is drawn great in my opinion, and has a certain style that is raw and unique. But I would also like the artists to stick to what is relevant and unique about the characters, especially after the publishing of the More than Meets the Eye books. For example, Skyfire uses a double-barreled rifle as a robot, but he doesn't have it in Issue #5 as he's battling Mindwipe, Bugly, and the other guy. When I was a kid, the most intriguing thing about Transformers was that each character was unique in his own way, down to his personality, abilities, and weapons also.

Anyways, all in all, DW has gotten me back into collecting comics, and I've rediscovered many titles that I used to love back in the day. Please don't lose that passion and dedication to producing great works of art, and powerful storylines that exhibit great action, heroism and morale. Thanks again, DW!

Frank Kim



I'm sure these useless bags of flesh appreciate your continued support.

And with that, I will return to crushing your pathetic little world beneath my heel. See you in 30!

-MEGATRON

MEGATRON
Decepticon Commander



TRANSFORMERS.COM

RIDE THE SUMMER HEATWAVE!

The **TRANSFORMERS SUMMER SPECIAL**, a new TF tradition! This May Dreamwave cranks up the heat with this super sized one shot featuring not one—but four! of the coolest incarnations from the timeless **TRANSFORMERS** franchise. Brought to you by a veritable who's who of **TRANSFORMERS** talent the **TRANSFORMERS SUMMER SPECIAL** delivers the first-ever DW takes some classic TF properties

BEAST WARS

The **TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE** tag team of **Brad Mick** and **Don Figueroa** spearhead Dreamwave's first look at one of the most popular **TRANSFORMERS** properties ever. "**BEAST WARS** is probably the most focused incarnation of any of the various **TRANSFORMERS** mythologies," says Mick. "The cartoon and the toys were a **TRANSFORMERS** tour-de-force that really helped bring the franchise back to the forefront of pop culture. Honestly, if it wasn't for **BEAST WARS**, I don't think the entire **TRANSFORMERS** franchise would have enjoyed the comeback that it did."

ROBOTS IN DISGUISE

TF info-guru **Adam Patyk** (**MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK**) is joined by newcomer **Rob Ruffolo** to tackle this unique TF continuity. Says Patyk of the property: "**RID** will follow the principles **Brad Mick** and established for **GENERATION ONE** and **MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE**. Taking all the good stuff and turning it up a notch, downplaying the goofier things that didn't quite work and really thinking out a consistent framework for the continuity."

TRANSFORMERS ENERGON

Penciler **James Raux** (**TRANSFORMERS ARMADA**) works his unique magic on the latest generation of **TRANSFORMERS**, teaming for the first time with writer **Simon Furman** (**TRANSFORMERS ENERGON: WAR WITHIN**).

TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE

Pat Lee (**TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE** vol. 1 & 2) makes a brief return to the original robots in disguise, in this self-contained story written by his **TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE** Vol. 2 partner **Brad Mick**!

Also inside this one-shot special, fans will learn more about how they will be able to vote on which as-yet-untouched TF property (**BEAST WARS** or **ROBOTS IN DISGUISE**) Dreamwave will tackle in the next big **TRANSFORMERS** comic series! This May the summer heat is definitely turning up!



APRIL ESSENTIALS:



FROM THE DESK OF MEGATRON

TITLE

BASE OF OPERATIONS

CURRENT PROJECTS

FAVORITE SAYINGS

OPTIMUS OR RODIMUS?

Right now I am sitting amidst a herd of you pathetic flesh creatures at a Transformers convention. The room is filled with milling humans, plastic representations of our robotic forms, and then even more putrid fleshlings. How the very sight of you sickens me. I would crush you all without a moment's hesitation. Nothing could possibly give me more pleasure than to feel the dripping, pulpy contents of your craniums between my fingers as I smashed each and every one of you putty--

--Certainly, I'll sign that for you. Oh, really? Glad you enjoyed it. You'll be pleased to see that this month's comics feature my triumphant return in all the Transformers titles. Yes, I hate **Brad Mick** as well—I mean, that carbon-based hack killed me! Can you believe the audacity? Well, at least he had enough sense in that bony brain-casing to bring me back. Now, begone before I blast you into oblivion!

Where was I? Ah, yes--crushing you filthy animals into paste...er, who should I make that out to? "A really big fan"? Absolutely.

You disgust me

-MEGATRON

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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK

TRANSFORMERS

ARMADA

#3

secrets of
UNICRON!
(nuff said)

CONNECT ALL 3 COVERS!



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WHAT
DARK SECRET
LIES BENEATH
THE EARTH?

THE **TRANSFORMERS** GENERATION ONE #5
MAY

MORE THAN
MEETS
THE EYE!

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TRANSFORMERS ENERGONTM 23

SIMON FURMAN • JOE NG



his
SECRETS
OUT!

with
KICKER
ever
be safe
AGAIN?



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PC BY BERTON MUMMA ET AL. COMIC-SCANS TRANSFORMERS 23 SCANNED BY OTK



TRANSFORMERS

BRAND

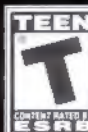
THE
ULTIMATE
CONFLICT
BEGINS
MAY 11

PREPARE FOR BATTLE AT
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Fantasy Violence

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